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FROM: Prague

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 338, December 8, 9 a. m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 338 REPEATED INFORMATION MOSCOW 39, BONN
58, BERLIN 14.

Dutch First Secretary Jorissen tells me that old friend of his in Czech Foreign Office recently told him that Soviet actions in Berlin were instigated at this time due to insistence of East German regime. According to Jorissen's informant GDR told Moscow some time ago that defections through West Berlin of doctors and other professional persons had become so serious together with other economic and political disadvantages resulting from mere presence of a free Berlin that GDR could not hold out against pull of West Germany another year unless something was done. Jorissen says his informant in position to know and he credits his story.

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